

# PROMOTE, PRESERVE & PROSPER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MYOTONIC GOAT REGISTRY



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well, I made it through kidding season here at the Villa and finally got my much needed back surgery. I am just over 2 weeks post surgery as I write this and I am completely frustrated with my physical restrictions at this point and am working diligently on my patience. Patience is needed to follow doctors orders for proper healing, so I am told. I am blessed to have family, friends and a good church family that have all helped. AND windows! I am blessed to have windows to see my goats through.

Enough of my whining, let's get SHOW SEASON started!

If you have an informative article that you would like to have published in the newsletter, please contact me. I only need four to eight breeders to step up per year, depending upon length. I know we have some knowledgeable breeders that have some great advice, ideas and life stories to share. Help a goat girl out and contact me to get published in the next issue.

Y'all get out there and live the Goat Life!

Anna Garrett, editor



# PASTURE MANAGEMENT FOR MYOTONICS

BY TARA LAWRENCE

## The Importance of Proper Pasture Management for Raising Myotonic Goats

Raising myotonic goats successfully goes far beyond genetics and daily care—it starts from the ground up. Healthy pastures are one of the most powerful tools a producer has for improving herd health, reducing feed costs, and supporting long-term land sustainability. Thoughtful pasture management, including soil testing, fertilization, and grazing practices, directly impacts the well-being and productivity of your goats.

Everything begins with the soil. Without balanced, fertile soil, even the best forage species will struggle to thrive.

Soil testing is the first and most critical step in pasture management. It provides a clear picture of:

- pH levels
- Nutrient availability (phosphorus, potassium, calcium, etc.)
- Organic matter content

For Myotonic goat producers, soil testing helps ensure that forage contains the nutrients goats need for:

- Proper growth and muscle development
- Reproductive efficiency
- Strong immune function

Most pastures perform best with a pH between 6.0 and 6.5. If the soil is too acidic, nutrients become unavailable to plants—even if they're present in the soil. Lime applications, based on soil test recommendations, can correct this and dramatically improve forage quality.

Once soil test results are in, a targeted fertilization program can be developed. Fertilizing blindly wastes money and can harm both the environment and your pasture.

## Key Nutrients for Productive Pastures

- Nitrogen (N): Promotes leafy, fast-growing forage
- Phosphorus (P): Supports root development and plant energy
- Potassium (K): Improves drought resistance and plant durability

Balanced fertilization leads to:

- Higher forage yields
- Better protein content
- More consistent grazing availability

For Myotonic goats, this translates into fewer nutritional gaps, reduced reliance on supplemental feeds, and improved body condition. Good pasture management doesn't just grow grass—it grows healthier goats.

## Nutritional Benefits

Well-managed pastures provide:

- Natural sources of protein, energy, and fiber
- Essential minerals when soil fertility is balanced
- Diverse plant species that improve diet variety

Myotonic goats, like all goats, benefit from browsing as well as grazing. Incorporating shrubs, legumes, and mixed grasses supports their natural feeding behavior and improves nutrient intake.

One of the most overlooked benefits of proper pasture management is parasite control.

Internal parasites, especially those causing issues like *Haemonchus contortus*, thrive in overgrazed pastures. When goats are forced to graze close to the ground, they ingest more parasite larvae.

## Strategies to Reduce Parasites

- Rotational grazing: Move goats frequently to allow pasture rest

- Maintain forage height: Keep grass above 4–6 inches
- Avoid overstocking: Reduce contamination pressure

These practices can significantly reduce parasite loads and reliance on dewormers. Overgrazing weakens plants, exposes soil, and invites weeds. It also reduces the nutritional value of available forage.

### Signs of Overgrazing

- Bare soil patches
- Short, stressed plants
- Increase in weeds or undesirable species

### Solutions

- Divide pastures into smaller paddocks
- Rotate goats regularly
- Allow adequate recovery time (typically 2–4 weeks depending on season)

Healthy pastures recover faster, resist drought better, and produce more forage over time. When soil health, fertilization, and grazing practices are aligned, the results are long-lasting:

- Lower feed costs
- Improved kidding rates and growth in kids
- Stronger immune systems and fewer health issues
- Reduced parasite burden
- Sustainable land use for future generations

Proper pasture management is not just a background task—it is central to the success of any myotonic goat operation. By investing in soil testing, applying the right fertilization strategy, and managing grazing effectively, producers create a system where both land and livestock thrive.

Healthy soil grows healthy forage, and healthy forage grows healthy goats.

## SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Shaun Wheeler: Building Misfits Paradise and a Future in Myotonic Goat Excellence

As he wraps up his final year as a Youth Breeder, 18-year-old Shaun Wheeler of Pekin, Indiana is proud of how far he's come in a short time. A senior at Eastern High School, Shaun balances school, leadership, and livestock as the owner of Misfits Paradise in Washington County, Indiana.

Shaun has been active in both 4-H and FFA for five years, currently serving as Vice President of his 4-H Goat Club and Chapter Historian for FFA. Since purchasing his first goats in 2022 - including his first Myotonic goat in early 2025, he has dedicated himself to learning, improving, and promoting the breed. Through hands-on experience and mentorship, he has developed a strong foundation in herd management and breed description.

At Misfits Paradise, Shaun is focused on growing and improving his herd to meet true Myotonic goat standards. Looking ahead, he hopes to continue expanding his breeding program and deepen his knowledge of conformation and evaluation. One of his long-term goals is to complete a judging course and become a certified MGR Judge, giving back to the breed that has shaped his youth career.

Whether he's in the barn, at a show, or cheering on the Seattle Seahawks, Shaun represents the dedication and enthusiasm of the next generation of Myotonic goat breeders.



# "Preserving the Breed by Investing in the Future!"



The MGR is thrilled to introduce the **2026 Solis Occasus Villa MGR Youth Scholarship**, a unique opportunity generously provided by Solis Occasus Villa & Anna Garrett.

This scholarship aims to empower the next generation of MGR breeders by investing in their education & development, ensuring preservation of the breed. By supporting young individuals, the scholarship fosters future breeders who are equipped to make meaningful contributions to the breed.

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**DONATIONS  
NEEDED**

The MGR Spring Fundraiser is fast approaching and I need pictures & information for donations by midnight 4-22-26.

Please message me directly.

\*All items must be new & unused.\*

Thank you in advance for supporting the breed, MGR and Nationals.

*Spring*  
**FUNDRAISER**

**APRIL  
23rd through 27th**

**MEMBERS ONLY**

MYOTONIC GOAT REGISTRY  
[HTTPS://FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/  
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*See you there*

# ADS...



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**MGR JUDGE'S CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**MAY 28 & 29, 2026**



**KRISTIE PELLMAN**  
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The Myotonic Goat Registry was formed in 2005 as a sole ownership registry by Gene McNutt with input from an initial Board of Advisors made up of Dr. Phil Sponenberg and Barbara Roberts. The current Board of Advisors includes Dr. Phil Sponenberg, Cindy Bene, Eve Williams and Anna Garrett. The owner and Board of Advisors will make decisions concerning the registry and its procedures. This method of governance is meant to provide Myotonic Goat breeders with a registry that will not have frequent changes, and will have the longevity and consistency needed to successfully promote the Myotonic Goat breed, while at the same time make it responsive to the needs and wishes of the breeders. In 2009, Gene retired and the registry was sold to Tara Lawrence. As the Myotonic Goat Registry grows, additional Board of Advisor members may be added in order to more broadly represent the breeders. The owner, along with the Board of Advisors, will be responsible for providing for its own replacements and/or expansions.

The Myotonic Goat Registry takes into consideration all breeders, from pet owners to commercial meat growers. Regardless of which aspect of this breed appeals to you, the Myotonic Goat Registry is the place for all breeders to register their Myotonic Goats.

The Registry will help breeders promote their goats through sales, shows, and advertising, and will educate the public about the Myotonic Goat and its usefulness in a variety of settings.